

**Virginia Commission for the Arts  
Minutes  
November 29, 2007  
Board Room of the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation, Richmond**

Members Present: Dr. Lucius Ellsworth, Chair; David Briggs, Nick Covatta, Susan Hirschbiel, Maria Laqueur, Bonita Lestina, Jackie Stone, Rod Taylor, Beth Temple, Will Trinkle, Deborah Valentine, and Vaughan Webb

Members Absent: Eve Wilson

Staff Present: Peggy Baggett, Tatjana Beylotte, Foster Billingsley, and Cathy Welborn

Guests: Linda Dalch Jones, Virginia Performing Arts Foundation; Todd Christensen, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development

**Introduction**

Lu Ellsworth, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. He thanked the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation for hosting the meeting.

David Briggs suggested a wording change in the minutes of the October 2, 2007, minutes to indicate that the Commissioners agreed that none of the requests for reconsideration of grant decisions made at the June meeting fit the criteria for a formal appeal. He then made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Jackie Stone introduced Linda Dalch Jones, President/CEO of the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation, who made a presentation about the performing arts complex and showed the model. Lu Ellsworth commended the board of the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation, including Jackie Stone, for their commitment and dedication to the new center.

**Report of the Arts in Education Committee**

Rod Taylor gave a report on the actions of the Arts in Education Committee, which had met prior to the full Commission meeting, in awarding the 2007-2008 Teacher Incentive Grants and adding one artist to the AIE Roster.

**Presentation on Cultural Tourism Initiatives**

Lu Ellsworth then introduced Todd Christensen of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Christensen showed a DVD about the new artisans center in Abingdon and gave a presentation about The Crooked Road and Round the Mountain. He stated that the goal is to make southwest Virginia an international tourism destination within three

years.

## **Advocacy Update**

Lu Ellsworth reported that the Federal appropriation for the National Endowment for the Arts is stalled in Congress. It is possible that the Federal agencies will operate under continuing resolutions until the fall of 2008.

A discussion followed about the need to identify future leaders on behalf of the arts in the General Assembly.

## **Technology Enhancement Grants**

Foster Billingsley presented the panel and staff recommendations on the Technology Enhancement Grants. Peggy Baggett noted that the Commission staff had underestimated the demand for these grants in the current year and that there is not sufficient money remaining in the grant category to approve grants for all of the applications recommended by the panel. There was a discussion of transferring any unspent touring assistance money into the Technology Enhancement category. Lu Ellsworth then made a motion to approve the staff recommendations on the Technology Enhancement Grants. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

## **2008-2010 Guidelines for Funding**

Peggy Baggett reviewed the public comments on the guidelines received since the October meeting. David Briggs made a number of suggestions for wording changes in the draft guidelines. He then made a motion to approve the guidelines with the wording changes approved by consensus of the Commission. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

## **Tourism and the Arts Grants**

Beth Temple reported on the review of the new Tourism and the Arts grant applications. She noted that there were several outstanding projects and that the partnership with the Virginia Tourism Corporation is a positive step forward for the Commission. She urged the Commission to continue the grant program next year if there is sufficient funding for the two agencies.

## **Statewide Celebration of the Arts**

Peggy Baggett reported on the regional meetings, hosted by the major arts institutions of the state, to introduce the idea of the statewide celebration around a common theme to the small and mid-sized arts organizations. The response has been primarily positive. Beth Temple, David Briggs, and Lu Ellsworth reported on the meetings in their home areas. There will be a meeting of the task force planning the celebration on December 11 to determine the next steps.

## **Creative Economy Conference**

Peggy Baggett reported on the Creative Economy conference sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. She recommended that, if the Chamber sponsors future conference on this topic, the Commission consider being a sponsor in order to have a larger

presence for the arts on the agenda.

### **Priorities for the Next 18 Months**

A general discussion followed on the Commission priorities for the next 18 months.

Lu Ellsworth stated that his top priorities would be:

- reinvigoration of the Commission partnership with the Virginia Tourism Corporation
- supporting the major arts institutions in their efforts to provide leadership on behalf of the arts as a whole
- The Arts Build Communities public awareness campaign.

Peggy Baggett reported on behalf of Will Trinkle, who had left the meeting:

- achieving the dollar per capita
- an increased online presence for the Commission
- finding a solution to the uneven rotation of the board terms.

David Briggs stated that he would like to see more interaction with the economic development community.

A discussion followed about the rotation of board terms. Lu Ellsworth agreed to follow up on this issue with the Secretary of Education.

### **Old and New Business**

Beth Temple and Lu Ellsworth reported on their respective visit and phone call with Eve Wilson. Her health prevents her attendance at meetings, but she remains interested and involved in the work of the Commission.

Peggy Baggett reported that June Britt has been hired as Coordinator of the Governor's Arts Awards.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Attachments:           2007-08 Teacher Incentive Grants  
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